

MICHIGAN



FARMER,

AND WESTERN HORTICULTURIST.

"AGRICULTURE IS THE NOBLEST, AS IT IS THE MOST NATURAL PURSUIT OF MAN."

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From the Cultivator.

Sowing Winter Grain.

WHEAT.—It is not always easy to tell whether early or late sowing would be most advisable. Early sown grain gets the best hold against the winter, and where it is not liable to attacks from insects, will generally yield best. But it unfortunately happens that the Hessian fly (a description of which was given in our last number) is usually more injurious to early than late sown grain; because a generation of the insect is sometimes brought forward in the fall. This is avoided by late sowing. But there is another insect which must be looked out for—that is the yellow maggot, (*Cecidomyia tritici*) also described in our last. This insect attacked the late sown winter wheat most, in this neighborhood, the present season, so that we are something in the predicament of the old navigators, who in endeavoring to steer clear of Scylla, were swallowed up by Charybdis. If we sow early and escape the worm in the head, (*C. tritici*) we are sure to have the worm in the bottom of the stem. (*C. destructor*.) If we sow late it is the reverse. So we see that all circumstances must be taken into consideration in determining the proper time for sowing, and the insect whose attacks are most to be apprehended, must be most guarded against.

Preparation of the ground.—In this operation, regard should be had to protecting the crop from injury during winter. This injury takes place in two or more ways. First—in land where too much water is retained near the surface, the roots of the grain are sometimes thrown out by the heaving of the soil under the action of frost, and by alternate freezing and thawing, the plants are left without any hold on the soil, and so perish. Against injury from this cause, we should use all practicable means to prevent water from standing on the surface, or remaining in two large quantities near the roots of the grain, and for this purpose would not only use drains, but should resort to subsoil plowing, loosening the earth to as great a depth as possible, thereby allowing the surplus water to descend at once so deeply that the heaving by frost is in a great degree avoided. Second; grain is sometimes injured from the rains and winds carrying the earth away from the roots. This oftentimes injures the crop more than any thing else. The mode of sowing in drills is the best remedy against this, which we have seen. The drill mode has, also other important advantages, such as the security of the crop against

rust and mildew. We spoke of this mode in our number for February, in describing the farm management of Mr. Thos. Noble, under the head of "Farming in the West." The grain is sown very expeditiously with a machine drawn by a horse. The rows are left in a small hollow, so that the rains, instead of washing the earth away from the roots, are constantly bringing a little more over them, which acts as a security both against the winds and frosts. This mode of sowing, is now very extensively adopted in England, where its advantages are becoming every day more and more acknowledged. In that country, the spaces between the rows are sometimes cultivated, either by hand, or by the horse-hoe.

Proper quantity of seed per acre.—We will here give a rule, which, though at variance with some theories, we are quite satisfied is correct—viz: that the richer the ground the less seed is required. It is the practice with some farmers to sow no more than two-thirds the usual quantity of seed on poor land, while on that which is rich, they sow an extra quantity—in the latter instance they say "the land can bear it," in the first, they suppose it can support no more. These conclusions must have been adopted without very close observation of the operations of nature in such cases. In the first place, there is not much land so poor that nothing will grow, and if it does not produce something valuable, it is sure to produce something useless; and if grain on poor soils is sown thin, it is overpowered by the more hardy natural growth. Grain will not spread, or tiller on such soils, and it must, therefore, be sown so thick that the crop may sufficiently cover the ground at once, before the wild plants can obtain a foot-hold. In this way, only, can such possession of the soil be secured as to insure from any crop a fair yield. On the other hand, grain-plants on rich land have a natural tendency to tiller, and this tendency is always in proportion to the strength of the soil. It is from this cause, that wheat on rich land often recovers from the attack of the fly, while that on poor soils is killed. The strength and vigor of the roots in the former case, continue to throw up new stalks, till after the insect ceases its ravages; but from the want of this energy, the plants on poor soil, perish under the first attack. It is thus evident that poor land requires the most seed.

We are aware that farmers are not agreed as to the requisite quantity of seed, even on the same soils. In different sections of the country, the quantity varies from one bushel to two bushels per acre, and we have not found that this variation is much regulated by any difference in the quality of the soil. We think too small a quantity is generally sown. The most successful wheat growers we have ever known, have been in the habit of using two bushels of seed per acre, on land of fair medium quality, and we should in general prefer this quantity to less.

Rye.—The objections against the early sowing of wheat, do not, many of them, apply to rye. The latter is comparatively exempt from attacks of the Hessian fly, and we believe wholly so from the attacks of the wheat midge—improperly called *woevil*. In this latitude, there is no objection to sowing as early in September as is convenient. If it acquires too large a growth, it may be fed off by calves or sheep. Indeed a considerable object in sowing this grain, in some parts of the country, is to afford pasture in the fall, winter, and early in spring, when it cannot

be had from grass. In some of the stock districts of Ohio and Kentucky, it is highly valuable in this respect. Where snow does not accumulate to prevent its being pastured, we know of nothing equal to it for calves, ewes, and lambs, in the fall and winter. But even where snows of considerable depth lie on the ground for months it is an object well deserving attention for fall and spring pasturage. If animals are only allowed to feed on it when the ground is in a proper state—that is, when they will not poach it with their feet—it may be pastured quite closely in the fall and winter without injury to the yield of grain, and there is no doubt that pasturing sometimes increases the yield. In some of the country, it is fed in the spring parts till grass will afford a "bite." It is then allowed to grow till the grain is filled and begins to turn, when hogs are turned in to eat it. At this stage of the grain it does not shatter out, and the hogs get it pretty clean, trample down the straw, and leave a good deal of manure. This is considered, in the districts where it is practiced, one of the best modes of enriching ground.

Rye requires a lighter soil than is most congenial to wheat. It often does well on quite sandy or gravelly land, where wheat would fail. Wheat is generally more profitable on a soil to which it is adapted than rye, provided it escapes injury from insects. On such soils the yield is equal, if not greater than that of rye. In some neighborhoods where wheat has been injured by the midge for a year or two past, rye is considered a pretty certain crop, and we find many farmers in this vicinity are intending to discontinue, for the present, the sowing of wheat, (on account of the insect here mentioned,) and substitute rye in its place. This course would seem to be a very judicious one, to be followed at least as long as danger is to be apprehended from the insect.

SHEDD RACKS.—The following is from Mr. Henry Weston, Jasper Co., Indiana:—"If the subject has not been brought to your notice, I would recommend a very cheap and convenient sheep rack, which is made by placing at an angle of 30 or 40 degrees from the perpendicular of a rail fence, two flat stakes or pieces of boards for each panel, and bracing them with short sticks, then laying on edge, one upon another, three or four boards, according to width, so that the lowermost shall slide close against the bottom rail. The sheep, being on the opposite side of the fence fed between the rails. The hay thrown between the boards and the fence, will of course slide down as consumed below. The spaces between the rails must not be so wide as to waste too much, nor so narrow as to prevent feeding."—*Id.*

SINGULAR CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—The Nat-chez Free Trader mentions a case of a man who came there a few years since in a far gone consumption, and who, by abstaining from water, meat and fluids, has become to be a powerful and robust man. This is the first instance on record probably, of a man becoming powerful and robust on such slim fare.

It is not improbable, says the Newburyport Herald, that the above may have been a case of real cure of that dreadful disease. Of the efficacy of entire abstinence from fluids of every kind in curing ordinary coughs and colds, we have been assured by physicians who have tried it. A common cold may be cured in three days by an entire abstinence of fluids.

Cutting Stalks.

The season is at hand in this latitude, when the business of "cutting stalks," or "topping corn," as it is sometimes called, is usually done. Many experiments have been tried to settle the question whether taking away a portion of the leaves of the plant, will diminish the production, or the amount of corn. There can be no doubt that it does. The leaves of any vegetable are necessary to its health and vigor, and the period of perfecting its fruit or seed, is one which requires all the energy and activity of the system, in order to carry out the plan of Nature in maturing the seed which contains the embryo of the future plant, and upon which mainly depends the continuance of the species. We have some farmers who argue that because the "spindle" of the stalk, as it is called, dies or withers away, it has fulfilled its office, and the stalk and leaves are of no further use to the other part of the plant. This is a mistaken view of it. Let us look at it and observe the uses of these parts. The corn plant belongs to that family which have separate parts of their flowers on different parts of the plant. The *spindle* is one part, and the silk is another. They are both necessary for the production of perfect seed. The spindle produces and elaborates the pollen, or farina, which is necessary to impregnate the corn and give it the power of coming to maturity. After this process has been accomplished, which is done by the dust (pollen) falling upon the silk of the ear growing below, it dies. It has fulfilled the office assigned to it, and there is no further need of it, and, like the parts of any other plant, it withers away. Not so with the leaves; they continue to grow, to perform their functions in absorbing gasses at one time of the day, and emitting other gasses at other times, as well as transferring moisture, by which the sap becomes thickened and prepared for the support of the corn, now increasing in size, and storing up in its cells and reservoirs the peculiar elements which render it so valuable to man, and so necessary to a future crop. Why, then, should it be cut off? It is true that the remaining leaves may do something of the kind, and the actual loss to each ear may be but trifling. But the trifling diminutions to each ear will make no small sum in the whole aggregate. Others say that the loss is more than made up by the superior quality of the fodder made by curing the green stalks, over those not cut until the corn is ripened. We doubt this. If the corn fodder is properly managed when corn is husked, we think that the difference of real nutritive qualities is not so much as is generally supposed, though there can be no doubt that the early cut stalks will be rather more palatable. We like the plan of letting the corn stand, stalk and all, until it becomes glazed and considerable hard, then cut it up, and after drying a little, tying it in bundles and putting it in stooks or shocks loosely, and allowing it to become hard. This process it is true, will diminish the weight of the corn a little, but it makes sweeter bread. At husking time a bundle can be taken and husked without being broken apart and stowed away very easily. The risk which we often run in "these diggings" from early autumnal frosts, is also avoided, and you can go to bed on a cold night, without fretting, or having your slumbers disturbed by dreamy visions of Jack Frost in your corn.—*Maine Farmer.*

MANAGEMENT OF CORN.—Numerous experiments have been made showing that corn is injured by topping soon after it begins to be glazed, as was once the practice. The leaves perform an important office in absorbing food for the plant, and the preparation of it into suitable juices for the growth of the plant, and the perfection of the seed; therefore, any mutilation of this plant is injurious.

When the kernel is well glazed, or so far ripened that the stalks may be cut without injury, then the whole may be cut up at the ground without injury. And if this be done, and the corn carefully shocked, the butts as well as tops will be superior by being cut in season; and we prefer this mode of harvesting corn; for beside the superior value of the fodder, there will be no less labor required, and in case of late corn, and early

frosts, the corn will escape injury by cutting it when there is an appearance of a frost, and if only in the milk, it will ripen and make good sweet bread.

Another advantage is, the corn may be moved off the land, in case the land be wanted for other purposes, such as sowing in fall grain or ploughing. And when turneps are sown among corn, the crop may be improved by cutting up and shocking the corn on the ground, or removing it.—*Boston Cultivator.*

Clean Culture.

It is a fact that ground which is kept from vegetation of any kind, will not dry up so much as that on which a crop is grown. There are many who doubt this, but if they would make a proper examination, their doubts will be removed. Make an experiment:—take a piece of ground in the garden and hoe it over every day, or often enough to keep all kinds of vegetation from starting. Sow another piece adjoining with grass, or some kind of grain. After a draught of two or three weeks, examine both pieces by digging into them with a spade or shovel. The earth of the grass or grain plat, will be found dry like ashes, to the depth of a foot or more. The other plat will be dried in only two or three inches—below that it will be found quite moist. Examine the ground in an orchard in a dry time, and if it is not naturally a wet piece of ground, it will be found dry to a great depth. If there is a tree in your corn-field, see if the ground is not much dryer near it than on similar ground away from the reach of its roots. The fact is, the roots of vegetation bring up the moisture from a greater depth below the surface, than it could be done by simple evaporation. This may be known by noticing how much more moisture is required to support a crop of corn when the stalks are nearly full grown, than in its earliest stages.

Now, from all this we deduce an argument in favor of *clean culture*—that is, a culture which permits no useless vegetation to grow among cultivated crops; the advantage of which would be to give the crop the whole benefit of the moisture and other nutriment of the soil, instead of giving a portion of the same to the worthless weeds.

In a dry time we frequently hear farmers say, "it will not do to work my corn or potatoes; they need all the grass and weeds to keep the ground from drying up." Now this, we have shown is all a mistake—the grass and weeds make the ground dry faster and deeper. But it has been alleged that corn has been injured by plowing or working it when the weather was dry. We admit that this effect may have followed under particular circumstances. That is to say, if corn gets too large before it is worked, injury may be done. The reason is, that the roots have become extended, and the plow cuts off so large a portion of them, that the remainder cannot supply the stalk, and it soon withers. This is the way the "fired" corn, sometimes spoken of at the south and west, is generally produced.—*Alb. Cult.*

THE STING OF A BEE.—Laudanum will not cure the sting of a bee; but liquor potassæ will, perfectly and immediately; it instantly removes the pain, and prevents swelling or inflammation: the poison of the bee being an acid, this very powerful alkali neutralizes it. It should be applied cautiously of course; a sharp pen or very fine camel's hair pencil or even the point of a needle does well; but it must be applied instantly upon the sting being extracted. "As," says the writer, "I am constantly amongst bees, I generally carry a little bottle containing a few drops in my pocket. It is very rarely that I get a sting, but when I do my remedy is at hand. I regard it not half so much as the sting of a nettle."

AGRICULTURAL CURIOSITY.—A friend has given to us a natural curiosity, as the product of a corn stalk. It is a main ear with thirty-five lateral, shoots or small ears, most singularly interwoven into each other, forming a handsome group, which might very properly be called a bouquet of ears. It was grown in the corn field of Mr. Duffendaffer, near Lancaster, Pa.

Purchasing Butter.

"Is your butter good?" said I to a farmer. "Good! my wife has made butter these twenty years, and I should think she ought to know how to make good butter by this time."

He was evidently offended. "Well, let us examine it." The cover was taken off the tub, the clean white cloth which had been wet in brine rolled up, and the yellow treasure revealed. It certainly did look good.

"It tastes sweet; but how very salt it is."

"We always make our butter salt, to have it keep at this season."

"Let us see if the buttermilk is as well worked out as the salt is in."

Some of the lumps were then pressed down with the ladle.

"Now, my friend, (said I,) if your wife has made butter these twenty years, she does not know how to make good butter; for no butter can be good until all the buttermilk is worked out. If that is done, you need not salt it so bad to have it keep well in any place. A very little more care and labor would have made this excellent butter; but lacking that little, it is only a second quality—as you shall acknowledge, when I show you a sample of good butter."

We went in, and I took up a roll from a firkin of first rate butter. It was smooth, clear, and handsome; the hand of woman had not been on it from the time it left the churn until now; all the work had been done with a ladle.

"If you will get one drop of buttermilk from that butter, you shall have the whole free."

"Now, taste this, and taste your own, and say honestly, if you would not give a higher price for this than your own. Look at it—see how clear and transparent these minute globules are, and how intimately they are blended with the whole mass. Until those all disappear, the butter will keep sweet; and no butter will keep long when they are ever so slightly colored by the milk."

The farmer simply remarked, that there was a difference in butter, and left, to find a less critical or more ready customer.

It is strange, that when every body loves good butter, and is willing to pay for it, our farmers' wives and daughters do not take pains to make a better article. It's the women's fault that we have poor butter, generally, and we must hold them responsible. It is perfectly easy to make good butter. The only requisite is, *care*. Good butter will always command a good price, in the duldest market; while poor butter is a drug at any price.

When any of my lady readers make butter again, just let them imagine that I am to have a nice bit of bread and butter with them, and that I shall detect the least particle of milk, and am not fond of too much salt.—*New Gen. Farmer.*

RURAL EMBELLISHMENTS.—I have said and written a great deal to my countrymen about the cultivation of flowers, ornamental gardening, and rural embellishments; and I would read them a homily on the subject every day of every remaining year of my life, if it would induce them to make this matter one of particular attention and care. When a man asks me what is the use of shrubs and flowers, my first impulse always is to look under his hat and see the length of his ears. Heartily do I pity the man who can see no good in life but in pecuniary gain, or in the mere animal indulgences of eating and drinking.—*Coleman's European Agriculture.*

FALL TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES.—From the 20th of August to the last of September, has been found a successful time for transplanting strawberries, (these may be done earlier,) pears, plum, and apple trees, currant and raspberry bushes—this according to the season, and when the summer wood has ripened. Take two squadings of top soil to mix with the roots; make the hole a foot wider than the roots of the tree. Previous to taking up the tree or bush, remove every leaf with a pair of sharp scissors. Take up every tree in the morning of a clear day, and place the roots in a tub of soap suds; let them remain till the afternoon, or even twenty-four hours.

The Dark Ages.

The learned of the present day talk most complacently of the dark ages, those times when the great mass of mankind was not only ignorant, but contented with their ignorance, and looked with most suspicious glances on any one who dared to think or act a little in advance of the multitude. The cause of this is easily explained. Knowledge in an individual, is a constant reproach to those who have it not; and always produces in them, one of two effects, a desire for similar acquisitions, or an intense hatred of the possessor. We are accustomed to speak as though these dark ages had passed; but the following from the Farmer's Cabinet will show that so far as agriculture is concerned, there are places where the dark shadows are still lingering. We hope for the honor of our country, such places are not numerous. The extract is from the letter of a gentleman, who was endeavoring, in connection with his ordinary business, to obtain a few subscribers for that valuable paper.

"I have lately taken a ride of twelve miles from — and returned by a different road. I saw but one building that could be construed into an apology for a barn. 'How do you manage without barns,' said I to one of the best farmers I met with. 'Oh,' said he, 'we have no use for barns, we have nothing to put in them.' 'How do you thresh your wheat?' 'We do not make any wheat.' 'Your rye then?' 'We do not make any rye.' 'What do you do with your hay?' 'Neither do we make any hay, was his reply. 'What do you give your horses during the winter?' 'The tops and blades of the corn.' And how are your cows provided for?' 'We let them take their chance in the fields among the stalks; they make out to live till spring.' The same farmer told me he had not manured an acre of land, nor a hill of corn for nine years! And what, I asked 'is an average crop of corn?' 'A barrel to the thousand hills.' And how many hills do you reckon to the acre? 'Two thousand.' 'And how many bushels to the barrel?' 'Five.' 'Then your crop of corn is ten bushels to the acre.' 'Yes, we are satisfied with that, and half of us do not get that much.' 'Have you manure here,' I inquired. 'Yes, we have plenty of it three or four feet below the surface, but it is too much trouble to dig it.' I mentioned your Poudrette—'O,' said he 'a dollar and fifty cents a barrel, would make it cost too much.' Seeing a little girl busily engaged in shaking a quart bottle, I asked what she had in it? She answered cream, and that she was making butter! I conclude, therefore, that a farmer who has a horse and cart—a wooden plow, rope traces, and a corn-husk collar, and a quart bottle to churn his butter in, feels himself amply prepared for conducting a farm in these diggings, without wasting a dollar a year in paying for the Farmer's Cabinet!" "A most legitimate conclusion truly," adds the editor.

It is astonishing what an obstinate adherence to antiquated and ruinous opinions may occasionally be found among farmers. We know a man who resided on a fine farm some fourteen or fifteen years, and who glories that he has never sown a bushel of plaster and scarcely if ever sown a bushel of clover seed upon it during that time. The practice of manuring he discounted wholly; and as a natural consequence, his farm originally of the best quality, had become so reduced, that he was obliged to dispose of it to satisfy his creditors. Such men should have lived centuries ago, or perhaps so far as the march of improvement is concerned, they might find a suitable residence in the district described by the correspondent of the Cabinet.

One of the greatest benefits to be conferred upon the agricultural community, to induce a spirit of improvement amongst the stand-still, illiterate farmers, would be for practical and scientific farmers to give public lectures, gratis, to be employed by State or other agricultural societies, upon practical and scientific husbandry.

FAIR.—The Boston Evening Journal notices one tree there containing 2,500 apricots of good size, and two other trees containing from 1,500 to 2,000 each.

Application of Manures.

The value and necessity of manures to successful farming, is now generally admitted, but there is still much that is faulty in the modes of applying them: and while it is acknowledged that there is still much to learn respecting their operation, there are a few principles that experience teaches are worthy of more notice than has yet been given them.

One of these is that in the same soil, some varieties of the cultivated plants require more manure for their growth and perfection than others. Every farmer is aware of this; he knows that corn requires more manure than peas or beans; and that some of the tap-rooted quick growing plants, will, with a small allowance of manure at the outset, give good crops on soils where the grasses, or wheat and barley would be a failure. Few, however, have inquired into the reason of these facts, or allowed them to have their proper influence in the application of their manures. The causes of this difference in the requiring of manure, are several; one of them is their adaptation to drawing nourishment from the air, instead of depending solely on the soil for it. Quick growing plants with broad leaves, and few roots, or those single and deep penetrating, possess this power in a remarkable degree.—Only examine the root of the common pea, for instance, and compare it with that of corn or wheat, and this difference will be manifest at once. The root of corn spreads in every direction; it clearly requires a large and rich pasture; its double sets of roots seem provided at once for support and nourishment, and it is remarkable that the last throwing forth of the roots like those from the vines of some of the cucurbitae, takes place precisely at the time when large supplies of nutriment are required for the formation of the fruit. The root of the pea on the contrary is very much smaller in proportion to the bulk of the plant; it does not spread like those of corn and wheat, but it penetrates to a considerable depth, and seems more adapted to provide the moisture than the nutriment of the plant.

Another cause why plants do not require equal supplies of manure, is to be found in the fact of their not all consuming the same time in arriving at perfection. As a general rule, it may be said that the longer a plant is in the soil before it matures its seeds, the more the soil is exhausted. Of this, winter wheat is a well known instance as compared with summer wheat; but perhaps a still better example is that to which allusion has already been made, that of corn and peas. The last requires not more than two-thirds the time of the former for maturity, and the exhaustion of the soil by it cannot be compared with the former. Buckwheat too, is of remarkably rapid growth, and hence it has been selected as one of the best plants known for the process of green manuring. Used in this way, it evidently returns to the soil more than it takes from it, fertilizing, instead of impoverishing, and leaving a much larger supply of organic matter for the use of the future crop, than existed previously.

A cause not remotely allied to the one just considered, is found in the well known result, that where the seeds are to be matured on the soil, more manure is required, or in other words, the exhaustion of the soil is greater, than where such maturity, or the formation of seeds does not take place. Thus while a crop of turneps or beets exhausts the soil comparatively little, these same plants when transplanted for seed are of the most exhausting kind, as every grower of seeds knows; and

the same may be said of most of those roots that do not mature their seeds the first year. Clover is also a well known example of this. If clover is cut before it is mature, the roots seem scarcely checked in their vigor, new shoots are rapidly thrown out, and the exhaustion which has taken place is evidently of the slightest kind. On the contrary if clover is allowed to mature its seed, the effect which the process has on the exhaustion of both the soil and the plant, is of the most striking kind; so great indeed that an attempt at two crops of seed from the same plant is rarely if ever known, and a course of other crops and re-seeding usually follows, where clover seed is grown.

From these considerations, which we are not able at this time to pursue further, it would seem that the application of equal quantities of manure to all crops is a useless expenditure. That we should ascertain those upon which manure produces the best effect when applied, and not let the mere convenience of the application, determine its use. It is true there are few cultivated soils on which manure is not advantageous, but there are some crops to which large applications of strong or unfermented manures would be fatal. Thus corn will be the better for a quantity that would destroy wheat; and the pea requires less than the potatoe, as a direct application. There are some plants that require the stimulating or forcing, that characterizes the action of fresh manures; while the action to others, would be an injury instead of a benefit. Of this the vigorous and productive corn grown in or around old yards, or deposits of manure, and the lodged, rasted, shrunk wheat of similar places, is a conclusive and instructive example. We are convinced that the best application of manures is a subject which has received too little attention from our farmers; and while he is to be commended who applies all the manure within his reach, more profitable results would be realized by many, were they to be applied more in consonance with the laws which govern the growth and nutrition of the several plants cultivated.—*Albany Cultivator.*

WEANING LAMBS.—Lambs should be weaned in August or September, in order that they may become accustomed to living on grass, and thus be prepared for another change in food, from grass to hay. The lamb will do much better for this preparation; and the poor dam will have much better opportunity to recruit and gain flesh preparatory to a cold winter, when she will be mostly confined to dry food, and have enough to hold her own, when she cannot have access to the ground of which she is exceedingly fond.

BENEVOLENCE.—If the certainty of future fame bore Milton rejoicing through his blindness, or cheered Galileo in his dungeon, what stronger and holier support shall not be given to him who has loved mankind as his brothers and devoted his labors to their cause?—who has braved the present censures of men for their benefit, and trampled upon glory in the energy of benevolence!—Will there not be for him something more powerful than fame to comfort his sufferings now, and to sustain his hopes beyond the grave! If the wish of a mere posthumous honor be a feeling rather vain than exalted, the love of our race affords us a more rational and noble desire of remembrance.

TRUTH.—The credit that is got by truth telling dies not with the body.

MICHIGAN FARMER.

JACKSON, SEPTEMBER 16, 1844.

Good Fruit, and its Culture in Michigan.

THE best and largest Apples we have seen this season, were presented us a few days since, by DAVID MEECH, Esq., of Plymouth, Wayne county. One of them measured over THIRTEEN INCHES in circumference, and weighed nearly one pound avordupois.—This is of course much smaller than some specimens with which we were presented last year,—yet it is a fine specimen of Michigan fruit, and another argument in proof of the adaptation of our soil and climate to the abundant production of one of the most valuable products grown in the country.

In this connection we cannot forbear from again urging upon the farmers of Michigan the importance of awarding to the culture of fruit—especially the best varieties, for it is as easy to cultivate choice as poor kinds—a greater share of attention than it has hitherto received in this section of the West. We believe there is no State in the Union, which is better adapted to production of choice varieties of apples, plums, &c., than our own. This has been fully proved in sections where fruit culture has received proper attention; and the success which has attended the labors of those who have engaged in the business, should encourage others to follow their example. The fact that apples of an inferior quality, imported from other states, sell readily in this market at from 2 to \$3 per barrel, reflects anything but credit upon those farmers who have resided here a sufficient length of time to propagate orchards which might furnish fruit enough to supply the immediate demand of the market. They must certainly see that, by neglecting to plant fruit orchards, (as they might have done years ago,) not only are their families deprived of a great luxury and healthy article of food, but that they have been “penny wise and pound foolish” in a pecuniary point—for, instead of having fruit to sell at a handsome profit, they are obliged to purchase at an exorbitant price for their own use, or do entirely without the article.

It is true that, within the past year or two, some of our most enterprising farmers have planted apple orchards and commenced the cultivation of other kinds of fruit, in those sections where little or no attention has heretofore been given to the subject—and, in some sections of the State, the matter is receiving a considerable portion of attention. This is encouraging, and we hope the business will be continued and augmented until the culture of fruit shall receive a share of labor and care commensurate with its importance. Yet, with many, there is an indifference about the matter which is surprising to those who are aware of the benefit that may be derived from a small amount of capital and labor—an indifference which speaks unfavorably of the intelligence and enterprise of the majority of our citizens. Why farmers in some sections of the State, neglect the culture of fine fruits, (or indeed fruit of any kind,) where the soil is so well adapted to their luxuriant growth, and where it requires so little care and attention, is a question beyond our comprehension. That the subject is now sadly neglected, is too true. Whether the same apathy and indifference shall continue, depends upon the farmers themselves to decide: with proper exertions, almost every farmer now settled in the State may, in a few years, grow an abundance of good fruit upon his own premises. We leave the subject, with a request that those of our readers engaged in Horticulture will send us the result of their experience for publication. Persons having choice varieties of fruit trees for sale, are also requested to make known the fact—either by advertisement or otherwise—through the pages of the Farmer, for the mutual benefit of all interested.

POST-MASTERS and others disposed to act as agents for the Farmer, will be supplied with specimen numbers, on application by letter, or at the office.

A FIRM FRIEND of this paper, writing us from Wayne county, says—“I like the plan you have recently adopted, of publishing the names of your patrons at the time of their subscribing or paying for the Farmer. I am inclined to pay my subscription again, for the sake of having my name appear in your ‘credit list’—not from any vanity of seeing my name in print, but to exhibit the performance of a duty incumbent upon every farmer in Michigan, and in the discharge of which every friend of ag. improvement may feel just pride. Knowing, from my own experience, the value and usefulness of your publication, I feel interested in increasing that usefulness by extending its circulation, and shall therefore continue to urge my friends and fellow citizens to become patrons of a paper so well worthy of support—and one which I sincerely believe is doing more than all others to promote the most important interests of our State.”

HENRY O'REILLY, Esq., of Albany, N. Y., (an esteemed friend, to whom we are indebted for many favors in by-gone days,) will please accept our thanks for the late European agricultural journals, which he has kindly forwarded us. We wish it were in our power to reciprocate the favor in a manner that would afford him as much pleasure and profit as we have derived from a perusal of these publications.

THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR.—This is the title of a semi-monthly ag. journal, published at Augusta, Georgia, by J. W. & W. S. JONES—several numbers of which we have received. It is handsomely executed, conducted with ability, and has the appearance of being, as it deserves, well sustained.

For the Michigan Farmer.

To Farmers.—Agricultural Papers.

FRIEND MOORE:—If you think the following hints worthy a place in your columns, you are at liberty to insert them.

Too many of our farmers plow, plant, sow and reap, as if nothing depended on the time or mode of operation—in season or out of season, wet or dry, hot or cold—all the same, only that a certain amount of ground is gone over in a given space of time. This class it is that are constantly blowing against *book farming*, which is equivalent to farming according to some system or reason. I do not suppose for a moment that at every turn we make, we must stop to consult a file of agricultural papers; but of one thing I am quite certain, and that is, intelligence spreads through the medium of such journals, and with it neatness and profit among farmers. Show me the man who discards the means of intelligence, and I will point you to one whose every day actions declare the fact. He will tell you that he knows enough to farm it, without applying to a newspaper or poring over the pages of a musty volume. Just squint across his farm, and you will see with half an eye, by his fences, his barn, his gates, his garden, and even his door yard, (if forsooth he should chance to have such an appendage to his dwelling,) that he is not in favor of “book farming,” as he terms it. His hog sty, perhaps is in one corner of the fence next to the high-way—his barn doors broken nearly into fragments—his well stoned up with a button-wood tub, connected with which is a huge crotch and pole, on which

His better half must hang her pail,
To get one drop of Adam's ale.

Examine his plantation and you will discover the same degree of sluggishness throughout every part.

The industrious and thriving house builder has his draft book, and takes the “Mechanics’ Journal,”—the merchant weekly reviews his “New

York Prices Current,” and his “Bank Note Detector”—while I blush to say that too many of our farmers will content themselves to remain in ignorance in regard to the pursuit in which they are engaged, when well conducted agricultural papers can be had almost at their very doors, at a mere trifling expense. Farmers of Michigan, let it not be said of you that the means of intelligence—that which puts clothes on your back, bread on your table, and money in your pocket—will hereafter be discarded. Subscribe now for the “Michigan Farmer”—peruse its columns with attention—and my word for it, you will not only lose nothing by the means, but on the contrary you will reap a rich reward. More anon.
McC.

Armada, Macomb Co., August, 1844.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Making and Preserving Butter.

EDITOR OF THE FARMER—Dear Sir: Your subscriber has read your very useful journal with lively interest, treating as it does on the most important occupations necessary for the comfort and support of man. Among the many subjects of a practical nature, laid down in the journal is that of preserving that most essential luxury of the table called butter. The usage of the times has brought it into extensive use—saying nothing of its nutritious or unhealthy properties, which will be left for our after consideration. But when calculation is made on the subject of its cost, compared with its sale, there seems to be something wanting to bring the article to its cost. The sum paid for the domestic animal so wisely ordained for the use of man, added to expense of keeping summer and winter, with the labor of manufacturing the article produced, urges the propriety of a lopting some mode of preservation to insure it a good article of commerce from our young and rising State—so that Michigan may become celebrated for her Orange Butter, as she has become famed for her finest Wheat, as her soil and climate, her extensive pastures and natural meadows will warrant an ample competition with any other State in the Union. For the prosperity of this laudible branch of industry, in consideration of these facts, your subscriber feels an anxious solicitude that attention may be awakened to the best improved method of manufacturing and preserving this important article of food; and having the most implicit confidence in the experimental knowledge and ability of your numerous correspondents, to read their experience on this subject would be highly interesting—and an interchange of views, and tried and well tested experiments, would undoubtedly prove very useful.—For it is notoriously true, and lamentably the fact, that large quantities of this article are bartered off for mere trifles, through the heat of summer; while on the other hand, could it be preserved in its native sweetness, the price would be more steady, the article more healthful, and render a better compensation to those who engaged in the business.

J. SHEARER.

Plymouth, Aug. 19, 1844.

THE subject of the above article is one of considerable importance, and we join with the writer in soliciting the opinions and experience of correspondents thereupon.—ED.

BAD SALT FOR BUTTER.—A great deal of good butter is spoiled by the salt; and many a good butter-maker has been blamed for the quality of the article when it was no fault of hers. Use only the finest and purest salt.—Genesee Farmer.

Fall Grafting.

Capt. Josiah Lovett, who is distinguished for his success in raising superior vegetables and fruits, gives in the Magazine of Horticulture, his mode of fall grafting, by which he is enabled to get fine fruit from the scions the next season. We annex his plan, and commend it to the particular attention of our Michigan readers at the present time. He says:

"Your remarks in the November number of the Magazine, for 1843, page 423, respecting my mode of procuring the specimens of fruit presented on several occasions at the Horticultural Society's rooms, last autumn, is partly incorrect; they were not procured by budding, but by grafting. I have practised budding with fruit buds for some eight years past, and occasionally succeeded in getting good fruit from them. It is now three years since I have begun grafting with fruit-wood in autumn, (and I never heard of any one attempting it previous to that time.) Thus far I have been eminently successful with the pear and apple, (occasionally with the plum;) the grafts thus set have been more certain to mature their fruit, than the trees from which the grafts were cut; this can only be accounted for by supposing the sap to flow slower in the graft in the spring, in consequence of there not having been a perfect union with the stock in autumn; and the grafts not blooming or setting their fruits quite as early in the tree from which they were cut, escape the injurious effects of our late spring frosts and cold north-east storms, to which in our climate we are so subject.

I select a healthy shoot for a scion, with fruit buds on it, I have them set a foot long with one or two side shoots. Immediately removing the leaves, and cut on one side in a sloping direction, to a point, the cut from one or two inches long; then with a sharp knife I begin at the point and cut just within the bark, up about half an inch above the commencement of the incision on the opposite side; then select a thrifty upright shoot, on a healthy tree, cutting well back, making a short stump; cut this stump in the same manner as the scion, reversed; and carefully but firmly push one within the other; secure with bass or Russia matting, and cover with clay; or I prefer to mix equal parts of beeswax and Burgundy pitch; a less quantity of rosin will answer in the room of pitch; soften to a proper consistency with hog's lard, and melt together, and spread on cotton shirting; and then cut in strips of one half to three quarters of an inch wide, and after uniting graft and stock, bind with this the cotton side next to the bark. The composition ought not to come in contact with the bark, as the bandage should be left on through the winter. If the grafts are carried any distance before uniting to the stock, it will be very important that the leaves be cut off under the tree, and the ends as soon as possible, dipped in wax or something adhesive.

Very respectfully your obedient servt.

JOSIAH LOVETT, 21.

Beverly, March 5, 1844.

N. B.—The mode of grafting above described is very similar to what is called whip-grafting by some, though I take much less wood with the bark than I have seen gentlemen do, who graft by that mode.

Harvesting Buckwheat.

Many farmers who are not acquainted with this grain are very apt to suffer it to stand too long in the field, or until so much of it has become ripe that the labor of mowing and getting it in is necessarily attended with considerable loss. From many years experience in its cultivation, as well as from the experience of others, the conclusion at which we arrived is, that it should be cut when two thirds of the grain is fully ripe, and if possible before there has been any frost. By following this plan we not only save a large amount of the most valuable grain in the field, and which a heavy frost would cause to shatter off, but also a very large proportion of that which has matured, and which, if exposed

to the operation of this principle, would be a total loss. When cut at the time above specified, the succulent and juicy state of the haulm will cause the unmatured to fill almost as rapidly, after being cut, as under the most fortunate circumstances, it could possibly have done before that operation. This assertion will doubtless appear singular to some, but is nevertheless strictly true. As the grain stands in the field, a heavy frost necessarily affects every part; but when cut and raked into small heaps, only the outer surface is exposed—consequently a very large proportion of the entire mass remains wholly uninjured, and will finally ripen and become perfect, even though there should be a frost for many successive nights. Should the straw be heavy, it may be well frequently to turn the bunches; but this should be done by a careful hand, as rough usage of any description will, even under such circumstances, be attended with considerable loss. After remaining several days in this state, it may be gently pitched into a cart, and taken to the barn; or should the farmer prefer it, threshed in the field. In this way almost the entire crop may be saved, and with no more expense than would have been requisite to have secured two thirds of it in the ordinary way. —*Maine Cultivator.*

Selecting Seed.

Since it is very clear, that the quality of the product depends in a great measure, or entirely upon the excellence of the seed, too much pains cannot be taken to select seed which is of a superior quality; and the labor expended on this object will always amply repay for itself. It is practicable—for it has been proved—in the case of corn, for example, to get improved varieties by a few years' care in the selection of seed. No one needs to be told in what that care consists, it being merely to save those ears for seed which are the largest and have the best developed kernels, and which are found on the most prolific stalks. The instances are many throughout the country, where, by the exercise of this care, for successive years, improved varieties of corn have been obtained. It is a desideratum of no small importance with us in New-England, to get a variety of corn, which, equalling the best of our present varieties in productiveness, shall be earlier in maturing that it may be the less exposed to injury from frosts. We do not believe the attainment of this is impracticable, if the requisite attention were given to effect it, in the selection of seed. At any rate, the experiment is worth trying, and we commend it to the attention of those who have the facilities for testing it. Take the earliest matured ears of the most productive variety you have; save these for seed; pursue this course for successive years, and, if the doctrine that "like produces like," is not fallacious, the result must be ultimately, the attainment of an early and productive variety. Such is our presumption. —*New Eng. Farmer.*

DISEASE AMONG POTATOES.—We have noticed throughout the country, that potatoes show signs of premature decay. The vines generally hold green until the first frost; but this year the vines of some entire fields have commenced drying up, while the potatoes have not half reached their maturity. The crop will not be half a yield.—We learn from a gentleman who has passed thro' New York, recently, that the same disease seems to be prevalent throughout that State. This is very singular, and is a subject of sufficient importance to claim the attention of scientific men, that the causes may be made known, and if possible, the evil remedied another year. —*Pittsfield (Mas.) Eagle.*

TO DESTROY RATS.—We find the following in the London (Eng.) Farmers' Journal:

"Sir Humphrey Davy recommends the following recipe, as being tasteless, odourless, and impalpable for destroying rats: carbonate of barytes, 2 oz., mixed with 1 lb of grease. It produces great thirst, and death immediately after drinking, thus preventing the animals going back to their holes. To prevent accidents to dogs, cats and poultry, it should be spread on the inside of an iron or tin vessel hung with wire, bottom upwards, over a beam, just high enough for a rat to pass under easily."

Comfrey.

PRICKLY COMFREY.—[*Symphytum officinale.*] If all is true that has of late been published respecting this plant, it promises to become a very important acquisition to our agricultural products; not only as food for cattle, but for man. It was noticed as an agricultural plant in Loudon's Gardener's Magazine, in 1830, by D. Grant, of Lewisham; where it was tried by a number of cultivators. "Cattle are said to be very fond of it; and Mr. Grant thinks an acre might be made to produce thirty tons of green fodder in one year. The plant is of easy propagation by seeds and roots; it is also of great durability, and if once established, would continue to produce crops for many years; and in that point of view, it would seem to be a valuable plant for the cottager who keeps a cow." In the spring of last year, there appeared in the Keene Sentinel a letter from Rev. E. Rich, of Troy, New Hampshire, recommending the cultivation of Comfrey for its foliage as fodder for stock, and for its roots as an article of diet for man. He observes "it will probably yet prove one of the best and cheapest articles of healthful diet now known; not outdone by the potatoe or Indian corn!" He then details some experiments in the preparation and use of the roots as food, by drying and grinding, then boiling as porridge, &c., and says he found it very beneficial for colds and other diseases of the lungs and bowels. He advises mixing about one third of comfrey meal with wheat or Indian, for porridge, puddings, griddle-cakes, &c. Should the taste, at first, be in any degree unpleasant, as is often the case with new things, any agreeable condiments can be added. The letter further states that the roots are to be dug once in two years, and that they will yield at the rate of more than two thousand bushels per acre: (!) and the two cuttings of the tops in one season, gave at the rate of six tons of hay per acre.

In an article on this subject in the Portsmouth Journal last November, the editor, after alluding to the letter of Mr. Rich, states that Mr. A. Robinson, of that town planted a bed of comfrey in his garden, last spring, half a rod square, the plants set in rows fifteen inches distant. They scarcely started until July, and the season was very dry; but on cutting the plants in September, the product, when dried was 22 1-2 pounds. He has no doubt but that next season, when the roots become well set, the bed will yield, at least, two cuttings of twenty-five pounds each; or at the rate of about eight tons per acre. Mr. Robinson says his stock, of all descriptions, eat it freely; and he thinks this plant will prove a valuable acquisition to our agriculture.

Comfrey is called a native of Siberia, but may be regarded as indigenous to this country. It belongs to the order *Boraginæ*, which consists of plants not remarkable for useful or nutritious qualities.

The plants can be found in almost every neighborhood, and it will be an easy matter to try experiments with it. —*N. Gen. Farmer.*

Newspaper borrowers are always the keenest critics. Their noses snuff pollution and their pure eyes drop water at error, which they steal to read and cheat to obtain. Those who pay for their papers always have a big bucket in their hearts filled with the milk of human kindness; and they comment with indulgence. It takes one of your stealing and borrowing fraternity to turn out the real double-distilled bitterness of fault finding.

Educate your children. Take the papers.

Mechanics' Department.

Chemistry.

Chemistry is an instructive, interesting, and valuable science. Within the last sixty years its empire has been wonderfully extended. There is scarcely an art of human life which it is not fitted to subserve; scarcely a department of human inquiry or labor, either for health, pleasure, ornament, or profit, which it may not be made in its present improved state, eminently to promote. To the husbandman, this science furnishes principles and agents of inestimable value. It teaches him the food of plants, the choice and use of manures, and the best means of promoting the vigor, growth, productiveness, and preservation of the various vegetable tribes. To the manufacturer, chemistry has lately become equally fruitful of instruction and assistance. In the arts of brewing, tanning, dyeing and bleaching, its doctrines are important guides. In making soap, glass, pottery, and all metallic wares, its principles are daily applied, and are capable of still more useful application, as they become better understood. Indeed, every mechanic art, in the different processes of which heat, moisture, solution, mixture or fermentation is necessary, must ever keep pace in improvement with this branch of Philosophy. To the physician, this science is of still greater value; and is daily growing in importance. He learns from it to compound his medicines, to disarm poisons of their force, to adjust remedies to diseases, and to adopt general means of preserving health.

To the student of natural history, chemistry furnishes instruction at every step of his course. To the public economist it presents a treasure of useful information. By means of this science alone can he expect to attack with success the destroying pestilence, and to guard against other evils to which the state of elements give rise.—And to the successful prosecution of numberless plans of the philanthropist, some acquaintance with the subject seems indispensably necessary. Finally, to the domestic economist this science abounds with pleasing and wholesome lessons. It enables him to make a proper choice of meats and drinks; it directs him to those measures with respect to food, clothing, respiration, which have the best tendency to promote health, enjoyment and cheapness of living; and it sets him on his guard against many unseen evils to which those who are ignorant of its laws are continually exposed. In a word, from a speculative science, chemistry, since the middle of the eighteenth century, has become eminently and extensively a practical one. From an obscure, humble, and uninteresting place among the objects of study, it has risen to a high and dignified station; and instead of merely gratifying curiosity, or furnishing amusement, it promises a degree of utility, of which no one can calculate the consequences or see the end.—*Scientific Class Book.*

Sculpture.

To ascertain when the art of sculpture was first practised, and by what nation, is beyond human research. We may safely conjecture, however, that it was almost one of the original propensities of man. This will still appear in the ardent and irresistible impulse of youth to make representations of objects in wood, and the attempts of savages to embody their conceptions of their idols. A command from the Author of our being was necessary in order to prevent the ancient Israelites from making graven images; and the inhabitants of the rest of the earth possessed similar propensities. The descriptions in the scriptures demonstrate that the art had been brought to great perfection at the period of which they treat.

It is necessary to make a distinction between carving and sculpture: the former belongs exclusively to wood, and the latter to stone or marble. It is probable that every essay at imitating animated objects was in each nation made originally in wood. But they soon discovered, doubtless, that wood was incapable of a durability commensurate with their wishes;

they adopted, therefore a close grained and beautiful granite, which not only required tools of iron, but those of the most perfectly tempered steel, to cut it; and with such they have left us at this very distant time vast numbers of excavated figures, as complete and as little injured as if executed within our own memory. The acknowledged masters of the sublime art of sculpture are the ancient Greeks, to whom every nation of the earth still pays a willing homage, and from whose matchless works each sculptor is happy to concentrate and improve his observations on the human figure, presented by them to his contemplation in its most graceful perfection. Such have been the excellence and correctness of their imitations of nature, and the refined elegance of their taste that many of their works are mentioned, as efforts never to be exceeded or perhaps equalled.

Statuary is a branch of sculpture employed in the making of statues. The term is also used for the artificer himself. Phidias was the greatest statuary among the ancients, and Michael Angelo among the moderns. Statues are not only formed with the chisel from marble and carved in wood, but they are cast in plaster of Paris or other matter of the same nature, and in several metals as lead, brass, silver and gold. The process of casting in plaster-aris, is as follows: the plaster is mixed with water, and stirred until it attains a proper consistence; it is then poured on any figure, for instance a human hand, or foot, previously oiled in the slightest manner possible, which will prevent the adhesion of the plaster; after a few minutes the plaster will dry to the hardness of soft stone, taking the exact impression of every part, even the minutest pores of the skin. This impression is called the mould. When taken from the figure that produced it, and slightly oiled, plaster, mixed with water as before, may be poured into it, and it must remain until it is hardened; if it be then taken from the mould, it will be an exact image of the original figure.—When the figure is flat, having no deep hollows or high projections, it may be moulded in one piece, but when its surface is much varied, it must be moulded in many pieces fitted together, and held in one or more outside or containing pieces. This useful art supplies the painter and sculptor with exact representations from nature, and multiplies models of all kinds. It is practised in such perfection, that casts of antique statues are made so precisely like the originals in proportion, outline, and surface, that no difference whatever is discoverable, except in color and materials.—*Ibid.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—From a report of a committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, we derive the following interesting facts:

It appears that but eight States have an excess of revenue over expenses, viz: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Delaware, and Louisiana.

The expenses of the other eighteen States exceed their revenue \$762,986. The State of Alabama has a Post Office revenue of \$39,146; and an expense of \$218,055; excess of expenditure, \$178,907. In Virginia the deficiency of revenue to meet expenses is \$50,778; North Carolina, \$103,944; Kentucky, \$52,830; Mississippi, 41,843; Illinois, \$65,926.

New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Ohio furnish over one half of the post office revenue of the Union; the three first named States have an excess of revenue over their expenditures of \$635,479.

New York furnishes about one-fourth of the post office revenue of the Union; excess of revenue \$372,958.

Excess of revenue over expenditures in Pennsylvania, \$119,409; in Massachusetts, 155,212; in Louisiana, \$66,285.

A living plant of the celebrated Upas tree, has lately been presented to the Horticultural society by the East India Company, and is now growing in the Chiswick Garden, London. It is in perfect health and notwithstanding the fables of Dutch travellers, perpetuated by Darwin, may be approached with safety. It is however, so virulent a poison that no prudent person would handle it without proper precaution.

A Powerful Natural Magnet.

An interesting description was given not long since in an English scientific periodical, of a natural magnet of wonderful power, and some circumstances connected with it, must make it particularly interesting to the American reader.

It seems that as early as 1772, when Benjamin Franklin was in Glasgow, he had much conversation with Professor Anderson on the subject of electricity and magnetism—and promised to send the Professor from America, a specimen of some fine loadstones which were found in abundance in some places in Virginia. Franklin was as good as his word—and in 1776, Professor Anderson received the promised mineral, and put the most promising portion of the mass into the hands of Mr. Crichton, an ingenious mechanic, who was skillful in the manufacture of scientific apparatus. It was armed in the most approved manner—but its power was no way remarkable. Several smaller portions of the mass were similarly fitted up—but they like the principal proving almost valueless, the Professor declined making any further trials, and finally laid aside all thoughts of the matter.

Several years passed away—but in 1781 or 1782, Mr. Crichton casually rumaging a lumber chest which stood beneath his work bench, discovered some small fragments of the almost forgotten loadstone, surrounded by iron filings and other ferruginous dust; and observing that one of these fragments carried a larger load of filings than the others, he was induced to bestow, at his leisure, what he, at the time, considered a little hopeless labor, in grinding the fragment into a proper shape with regard to its poles. After which diminution, iron arms were attached in a temporary manner by means of a thread; when to his great surprise, its first load, though hastily applied, and supposed to be in excess, required considerable force to effect its removal.

Mr. Crichton now thought that the fragment was worthy of additional labor; he ground it with great care into its proper form, with regard to polarity—and when finished, the little stone with its arming, was enclosed in a thin case of gold, having a ring at the top for suspending it. A load was attached, consisting of a pyramidal shaped piece of soft iron, of a weight judged to be rather under its maximum power, that is, seven hundred and eighty-three grains—the stone itself weighs precisely two and a half grains—carrying therefore three hundred and 13 times its own weight!

It is now fifty-seven years since that little spark of the mine was first enclosed. The case was opened about thirty years ago to examine the arms, but as the old ones appeared faultless, the whole was immediately put together in its original state. The same mass of iron has been used as its load from the beginning, and is placed merely in contrast with the arms. The power of adhesion appears to be as great as it has ever been—and it is supposed that by careful application the load could be increased to considerably more than eight hundred grains—but lest the trial might prove injurious it has never been made.—*Scrap Book.*

IMPORTANT INVENTION.—We learn from Vienna, that an iron cannon, loaded by the breach, invented by M. Wahrensdorf, the owner of iron works in Sweden, has just been submitted to a trial, in presence of the chief of artillery, the Archduke Louis, and the result has been satisfactory. The mechanism consists of a cylinder, which, after being charged, shuts the opening of the breach, and is fitted to it by a transversal cylinder. The mark was placed 400 paces off and fifty shots were fired at it as rapidly as possible. The piece is an 18 pounder, and from the total absence of inconvenience and danger, it will it is supposed, serve excellently for fortresses or ships.

Charcoal is found the most valuable substance for absorbing ammonia from the atmosphere, even more so than gypsum. The English have produced eighty bushels of wheat per acre by its use. If charcoal were saturated with urine, it would be better, because this would give the element of the grain at once.

Ladies' Department.

To Farmers' Daughters.

It has been sometime since I talked to the girls. This evening I will give them a few lines, letting them know I think of them yet. As usual I am dwelling on the common, every day affairs of life, and feeling more and more the importance of young females being well acquainted with all the minutiae thereof. The reason for my writing as I do at present, I will give you.

A few days since, I heard a gentleman, who wished a domestic, industrious and contented wife, speaking of a pretty, interesting girl, praising her modest deportment and engaging manners; but at last wound up with, "she does not know how to do anything useful; she could not even make her own dresses; she would be of very little use in this world of hard work." Now, I had nearly the same opinion myself, though I would not tell him, you know; but I thought I would tell you, and let you profit by it, if you choose. He spoke also of some young ladies who studied mental and moral philosophy, chemistry and other branches, and wanted to know what use it would finally be. He was certain, from his own observation, they did not have enough of philosophy to govern their tempers and general conduct, and as to chemistry, all their study had not given them a knowledge of bread-making, which he considered a very important item, his mother having been successful in that line of business, and he had been accustomed to the best sort of bread. He thought, if their studies were not of some practical utility, they might as well be let alone.

I was really amused to hear views so much in opposition to the prevailing notions of the day; and, to tell the truth, I thought there was some good common sense in them, though I informed him the girls would laugh most heartily at such nonsensical stuff, in these days of improvement, when many consider it polite and sensible to be perfectly ignorant of common affairs. My advice was, that he should go away out into the country, and look for the daughter of some good farmer, who had taught his family that it was honorable to engage in all the useful employments in which the greater part of the duty of woman consists—one who could sit down happily at home, and study household good, without sighing for the excitement of fine dress, fashionable furniture, fashionable visits, and all those fashionable things that disturb the peace of young housekeepers, and render home a scene of misery and wife, instead of a gathering place of the heart's best affections.

If girls had any idea of what would promote their future happiness and interest, more of their precious time would be spent in the acquisition of useful and necessary knowledge, rather than fritting it away to gain a few (generally useless) accomplishments. The first is of great importance, in every situation of life: the latter are almost always given up, as soon as their possessor takes her station at the head of a family. I was led to consider what should be the character of a lady who has finished her education, or who at least has left school, and also of the training necessary to form that character.—Nothing preventing, I will tell you my cogitations at some future time, although some of you will think I am altogether too old-fashioned to be writing in these days of light and knowledge.—*Tennessee Agriculturist.*

LUCY.

FEMALE FARMERS.—In olden time, when men were scarce, and there was not so much cooking and washing of dishes in the kitchen—when one plate apiece was all a man wanted for dinner, unless he unluckily broke it—in olden time the girls took the rakes, (we do not mean for husbands) and helped to gather the hay and stow it away for winter. Oh, how gracefully they would manage the rake! Could they learn to manage husbands as well, what a heaven we should have upon earth!

Now, girls, we don't want you to help us in the field. We can do all the out door work; but we will just tell what flatters and pleases us exceedingly. When we come to the house, tired and exhausted, we want you to commend us a little, and prepare us some drink and other refreshment. We dislike to rummage the closets for drinking vessels when we are too tired to stand up, and we feel disobedient when urged at such times to do little chores that may as well be done by little hands. Pay us some little attentions when we are very tired, and we will repay them all when our haying and hurrying are over.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

In a work published one hundred and seventy-one years ago, are to be found some choice observations for a gentlewoman's behavior at table, from which we select the following.

"Gentlewomen, the first thing you are to observe is to keep your body straight in the chair, and do not lean your elbows on the table. Discover not by any ravenous gesture your hungry appetite, nor fix your eyes too greedily on the meat before you, as if you would devour it more that way than your throat can swallow. In carving at your own table, distribute the best pieces first, and it will appear very comely and decent to use a fork, if so, touch no piece of meat without it."

"Do not eat your spoon-meat so hot that the tears stand in your eyes, for thereby you betray your intolerable greediness. Do not bite your bread, but cut or break it, and keep not your knife always in your hand, for that is as unseemly as a gentlewoman who pretended to have as little a stomach as she had a month, and therefore would not swallow her peas by spoonfuls but took them one by one and cut them in two before she would eat them."

"Fill not your mouths so full that your cheeks shall swell like a pair of Scotch bag pipes."

The following is the advice "to the female younger sort."

"You will show yourself too saucy by calling for sauce or any dainty thing. Avoid smacking in your eating.—Forbear putting both hands to your mouth at once; nor gnaw your meat, but cut it handsomely, and eat sparingly. Let your nose and hands be always kept clean. When you have dined or supped, rise from the table and carry your trencher or plate with you, doing your obeisance to the company.—*East Traveller.*

FLIRTATION.—Some writer truly says—"It is too frequently the practice of young ladies, by way of teasing their lovers, in fun, to neglect them while in company, and to laugh and flirt with other men. How many have parted from circumstances like this! Many who are attached to each other, who could, and in all probability would, have made each other happy; and for the gratification of an idle whim, many a female has lost her position in the heart of him she really loved.—Does she think that a man, having once suffered from her fun, could ever place dependence on her afterwards? Did ever any woman find a man who loved her enough to be jealous, repose the same confidence in her which he had previous to her attempts to create doubts in him? Let women understand that if it be worth while to have a man's affections, there is no fun on earth worth while to shake his entire faith in her."

PEACH PICKLES.—One of the most delicious pickles ever tasted is made from ripe Cling-stone Peaches. Take one gallon good vinegar and add to it four lbs. brown sugar; boil this for a few minutes and skim off any skum that may rise. Then take cling-stone peaches that are fully ripe, rub them with a flannel cloth to remove the down upon them, and stick three or four cloves in each; put them into glass or earthen vessels and pour the liquor upon them boiling hot. Cover them up and let them stand in a cool place for a week or ten days; then pour off the liquor and boil it as before; after which return it boiling hot to the peaches, which should be carefully covered up and stored away for future use.—*Clees Her.*

TER-TOTAL TEST.—It is said that the young ladies of New York still continue to kiss the lips of young temperance men, to know whether they have been tampering with toddy!

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE.
CHICAGO, ILL.

The annual course of lectures in this institution for the session of 1844-'45 will commence on the first Monday in November next, and continue 16 weeks.

The lectures will be delivered as follows:

On Anatomy and Surgery, by Daniel Branard, M. D.

On Institutes and Practice of Medicine, by Austin Flint, M. D.

On Chemistry and Pharmacy, by J. V. Z. Blaney, M. D.

On Materia Medica and Therapeutics, by John McLean, M. D.

Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, by G. N. Fitch, M. D.

The fees will be \$10.00 for each course of Lectures, amounting in all to \$60.00; the matriculation fee is \$5.00; Graduation fee 20.00; the Dissecting Ticket is optional with the student, and is \$5.00.

A suitable edifice is now being built, and will be in readiness for the next course of lectures.

Good boarding with room, fuel, and lights, can be obtained in Chicago at \$9 per week.



1844.



LAWSON, HOWARD & CO.
FORWARDERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

CHARTS, DETROIT, MICH.

Warehouse foot of Shelby Street.

Agents for the Buffalo and Ohio Line, and New York Lake Boat Line, on the Erie Canal, in connection with Steamboats, Propellers and Vessels on the Lakes.

AGENTS.

E. W. BARNARD, } 100 Broad street, N. Y.
R. J. VANDEWATER. }

J. H. MATHER, } foot State st., Albany N. Y.
W. H. VANDEWATER. }

Clard, Meech & Co., Buffalo, New York.

All goods and property shipped by these lines insured on the Erie Canal, and persons shipping by them can be assured of as quick despatch as by any other line.

The undersigned are prepared to make contracts for the transportation of produce and merchandise by the above lines, and solicits the patronage of merchants, millers, &c.

* Also, will make like advances and contracts at the Ware-House of SACKETT & EVERETT, Jackson.

LAWSON, HOWARD & Co., Agents.

Detroit, March 25, 1844.

FARMERS, LOOK AT THIS!

FARMERS are requested to call at **HAYDEN & Co's. Produce Ware-House**, (the first one west of the Rail Road Depot,) where they can sell for the highest price, in cash, any quantity of

WHEAT, GRASS SEED, FLAX SEED, CRANBERRIES, HIDES & SKINS, PORK, LARD, &c.

You can also buy **Plaster**, (a large lot just received,) **Salt**, new and never exposed to the weather,—**Pine shingles**, **Leather** of all kinds, **Paints**, **Oil**, **Water Lime**, **Plastering Hair**, &c. at the lowest price for cash, or in exchange for Produce.

Jackson, Sept. 2, 1844. 9-3m

Wool Wanted.

The subscribers under the firm of Lathrop & Walcott, have received their machinery—are now prepared for the farmers to bring on their WOOL, and they can have it CARDED or manufactured into any of the following descriptions of cloth viz: common and fine fulling cloth; common and fine cassimeres; satinet flannel of wool and of cotton and wool for sheetings &c.; pressed cloths; plaids; checks; stripes—chamb-rays; carpets double and single; coverlets and almost every other description required for this section of country.

Also weaving any of the above—also rag carpets, tow and linen cloths; diapers; bagging &c. &c.

Their machinery being all new and of the most approved kinds, they flatter themselves that all who favor them with their work will be satisfied not only with the quality, but with the price.

WOOL CARDING will receive particular attention at REDUCED prices.

They will be prepared early in September to full and dress cloth for customers on the most reasonable terms.

The patronage of Farmers is solicited. Wool delivered for manufacturing will all be covered by Insurance in a responsible Company without charge to the owners.

H. B. LATHROP,

ALBERT WALCOTT.

Manufactory at the State Prison.

Jackson, June 13th, 1844.

n10ff

ALBERT FOSTER,
EDGE TOOL MANUFACTURER,
JACKSON MICHIGAN.

Has opened a New Establishment on Luther Street, immediately in rear of J. SUMNER & Co's store, where he will keep constantly on hand all kinds of

EDGE TOOLS.

of superior workmanship. The Farmers and Mechanics of Central Michigan are informed that he is at all times prepared to furnish or make to order every article in his line of business.

Jackson, July, 1844.

n10ff

Foster's Improved Patent Pumps.

H. & F. M. FOSTER respectfully inform the public that they continue to manufacture and keep constantly on hand, at their Machine Shop, (on the east side of Grand River, near the Rail Road Depot,) in the Village of Jackson, superior Pumps for Wells and Cisterns, made of the best materials, and warranted not to FREEZE. These Pumps have been extensively in use in the Eastern States, for 15 years, and the increasing demand for them, is evidence of the general satisfaction they have given.

Jackson, February 15, 1844.

Miscellaneous.

From the Rochester Democrat

AWAY TO THE WOODLAND.

BY J. D. REID.

Away to the woodland, away to the stream,
Where the merry stars on its bosom beam!
How swift from the city's dull smoke we fly,
That shadows the glance of this laughing eye!

My head aching,
My bones are sore,
And joy awaking,
Can wait no more.

So off to the woodland, away to the stream,
Where the merry stars on the water beam!

Oh! who would live always from the breeze,
That fresh o'er the fountain trips over the trees?
Where the green grass bends to the merry lamb,
As it skips and bleats by its woolly dam?

Whew! soap the fetter!
Come, pony, go,
Where oats are better,
And parsnips grow!

Away to the woodland, and down by the stream,
Where the merry stars on the waters beam!

We will strip the cress from the babbling brook,
We'll sip the cream in its stealthy nook!
And the richest herbs and the purest air,
Shall soon be our morning and nightly fare!

Quicker and fleetier,
Come, pony, haste,
Where hay is sweeter,
To pony's taste!

Down by the woodland, away by the stream,
Where the merry stars on its bosom beam!

I hear the plow o'er the mellow ground,
And the distant cowbell's clinking sound;
And the buzzing wheel, and the echoing stroke
Of the bushman's axe on the "brave old oak."

On his proud domain
The rooster crows,
As he picks the grain
Where the plow boy goes.

Near a sweet little cottage, down by the stream,
Where the merry stars on its bosom beam!

I could not live always away from the churn,
Where the oceans of cream to buttermilk turn;
Down in the city its dust and its din,
Where men are so noisy and milk is so thin!

Fleetier, oh! fleetier,
Come, pony, go,
Where birds sing sweeter,
And pumpkins grow!

Away by the woodland, and down by the stream,
Where the merry stars on its bosom beam!

THE SHERIFF AND THE WIDOW.—The Port Gibson Herald says—We have just heard a good story, of which an Alabama Sheriff is the hero. Court was in session, and, amid the multiplicity of business which crowded upon him at term time, he stopped at the door of a beautiful widow, on the sunny side of 30, who, by the way, had often bestowed melting glances upon the sheriff aforesaid. (He was admitted, and soon the widow appeared. Her cheeks bore the beautiful blended tints of the apple blossom, and her eyes were like the quivers of Cupid. After a few common-place remarks—

"Madam," said the matter-of-fact sheriff, "I have an attachment for you."

A deeper blush than usual mantled the cheeks of the fair widow, who with downcast eyes, replied with equal candor—

"Sir, the attachment is reciprocal!"

For sometime the sheriff maintained an astonished silence; at last he said—

"Madam, will you proceed to Court?"

"Proceed to court?" replied the widow, with a merry laugh, "No, sir! though this is leap year, I will not take advantage of the license therein granted to my sex, and therefore greatly prefer that you should proceed to court!"

"But, madam, the Justice is waiting."

"Let him wait, I am not disposed to hurry matters in this case; and beside, sir, when the ceremony is performed, I wish you to under-

stand that I prefer a minister to a Justice of the Peace!"

A light dawned upon the sheriff's brain. "Madam," said he, rising from his chair with solemn dignity, "there is a great mistake here; my language has been misunderstood; the attachment of which I speak was issued from the office of Squire G—, and commands me to bring you instantly before him, to answer a contempt of Court in disobeying a subpoena in the case of Smith vs. Jones!"

We drop the curtain.

LIFE.—Life is short. The poor pittance of seventy years is not worth being a villain for. What matters it if your neighbor lies in a splendid tomb? Sleep you with innocence. Look behind you through the tract of time; a vast desert lies open in retrospect; through this desert have your fathers journeyed; wearied with years and sorrow, they sunk from the walks of man. You must leave them where they fall; and you are to go a little further, where you are to find eternal rest. Whatever you have to encounter is between the cradle and the grave; every moment is big with innumerable events, which come not in slow recession, but bursting forcibly from a revolving unknown cause, fly over this orb with diversified influence.

In England there are 1975 cotton factories, employing 183,233 hands.

Market Intelligence.

JACKSON, Sept. 16.

Wheat is in demand. Buyers are paying from 40 to 53 cents per bushel. Flour, retail, \$3 25—wholesale \$2 75.

Corn, 36 cents per bushel; Potatoes, 12 1/2; Cranberries, 6 to 7 1/2; Peaches, \$1 25; Apples, \$1 25; Beans, \$1 00.

Pork, fresh, \$1 per cwt; Beef, fresh, \$2; Butter, 16 per lb; Cheese, 6; Tallow, 8; Lard, 7; Hides, green, 3—dry, 6 to 7.

DETROIT, Sept. 14.

Wheat, 62 1/2 cents per bushel; Rye, 40; Corn, 38; Barley, 41; Oats, 29; Clover Seed, \$3; Flax Seed, 75; Timothy, \$1; Potatoes, 20; Beans, \$1 25; Dried Apples, \$1.

Flour, \$3 25 per bbl; Pork, mess, \$9; Salt, \$1 18 1/2; Eggs, 9 cents per doz; Butter, fresh, 10—firkin, 6 cents per lb; Cheese, 4 to 6; Tallow, 7; Lard, 6; Hides, green, 3—dry, 6; Hams, 5 to 7. Wool, 25 to 40 cents, per lb, according to quality. Ashes, pots, \$35 00 per ton—pearls, \$75 00.

NEW YORK, Sept. 12.

ASHES.—Pots are in fair request at \$4 18 1/2 a 4 35; Pearls at 4 50.

Flour.—Genevise 50 bbls at \$1 18 1/2; a \$1 25. Fancy Ohio at \$1 63 1/2. Troy \$1 18 1/2 a \$1 25. The receipts exceed the demand, which is very limited.

The receipts of Flour for the first week of September, 1844, are 50,710 bbls against 41,290 last year.

CREDIT LIST.

Receipts on subscription to the Mich. Farmer, from Sept. 2 to Sept. 16, 1844:

Hon H L Ellsworth, Washington, D C.; S Winship, Davidsonville; G W Hoffman, Niles; James McCracken, Romeo;—\$2 00 each. H Blackman, H A Hayden & Co., Seth Sharpe, Jackson; David Meech, Plymouth; L J Tinker & Co., Mason; Wm M Banker, Chatham Corners, N. Y.; P K Baroum, Hastings; M Kimble, Three Rivers; J A Smith, Leoni; T R Hallock, Bristol;—\$1 00 each. F Champlin, Outer Creek; T Cotton, Brooklyn; H A Goodyear, Hastings;—50 cents each.

JOB PRINTING.

Every description of Letter Press Printing, such as Labels, Wavbills, Show Bills, Road Bills, Stage Bills, Pamphlets, Handbills, Checks, Circulars, Ball Tickets, Business Cards, Catalogues, Notes, &c. &c., executed with neatness, accuracy and despatch, at the office of the Michigan Farmer, north side of the Public Square, Jackson.

All orders from a distance, will receive prompt attention. April, 1844.

Friends, Hear This!

Now is your Time to Subscribe for the Cheapest Paper published in the West!

In order to secure the immediate annexation of the names of several hundred, or thousand, new patrons to the already large subscription list of the MICHIGAN FARMER, the publisher has concluded to offer the present volume (to Clubs and Agents,) at greatly reduced terms. Until contrary notice is given, the Farmer will be furnished at the following exceedingly low rates—subscriptions to commence with No. 1, Vol. 2:—

3 COPIES, ONE YEAR, FOR \$2!

5 " " " " " \$3!

10 " " " " " \$5!

Each package to sent to one address. This will render the Farmer by far the cheapest agricultural or other journal in the western country. It places the paper within the means of every farmer in Michigan, and certainly none should be without a publication so cheap and useful.

All orders must be free or post paid, and accompanied with the money, to secure attention.

Address, MICHIGAN FARMER, Jackson, Mich. Aug. 15, 1844.

BANK NOTE LIST.

[CORRECTED FOR THE MICHIGAN FARMER.]

MICHIGAN.		
F & M Bk & Branch	Bank of Buffalo	55 dis
Bank of St. Clair	Clinton county	30 dis
Mich Insurance Co	Vatervliet	30 dis
Oakland County Bank	Com bank Buffalo	30 dis
River Raisin Bank	Com bank Oswego	30 dis
Mer Bk Jackson Co	Bank of Lyons	30 dis
Bank of Michigan	1st American Buff	40 dis
State Scrip	Bk Commerce do	45 dis
State Warrants	Bank of Oswego	50 dis
	Bank of Lodi	20 dis
	Binghampton	25 dis
OHIO.		
Specie paying banks	Attaragus county	40 dis
Cleveland	Erie	50 dis
Com bank Scioto	Wheeler Bk Buffalo	50 dis
" Lake Erie	Mer Ex bank do	50 dis
Far bank Canton	Miller's bank, Clyde	20 dis
Granville	Phoenix Bk, Buffalo	40 dis
Hamilton	Panawanda	50 dis
Lancaster	U. S. bank, Buffalo	35 dis
Mer & Trider's Cin	Western New-York	35 dis
Manhattan	Inten Island	55 dis
iami Exp Com	Olean	40 dis
Urbana bank Com	Alleghany county	75 dis
INDIANA.		
State bank & bran	St. Lawrence Stock	55 dis
State Scrip	Real Estate Notes	55 dis
ILLINOIS.		
State bank	Stock Notes	75 dis
Shawneetown	State bank, Buffalo	80 dis
	Wash'n Bk, N. Y.	100 dis
	Union Bk, Buffalo	35 dis
KENTUCKY.		
All good banks	CANADA.	
	All	50 dis
PENNSYLVANIA.		
Specie paying	Fire & Marine Insu-	
Erie	rance Co. (checks 100	
Relief Notes	MISSOURI.	
NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY,		
& NEW ENGLAND.	State bank	20 dis

A Splendid Farm for Sale!

SITUATED in the flourishing township of Plymouth, on a beautiful elevation of cherry land overlooking the thriving village of Plymouth, which contains mills near by, a respectable establishment of stores, and industrious mechanics of various kinds. The farm contains 183 acres of first rate land, with good buildings, and a thrifty Orchard of 238 bearing trees, (all of the choicest kinds of fruit, from the early harvest to the everlasting store apple, so called, which will keep for two years.)

The farm is under good improvement, with enough cleared land, and timber sufficient for all necessary purposes; also, a NURSERY of several thousand apple trees, besides other kinds of fruit trees—all of which will be sold for Five Thousand Dollars, and a good title given. Further information can be had from the subscriber residing on the premises.

DAVID MEECH.

Plymouth, Sept., 1844.

Wanted,

In exchange for the "Michigan Farmer," or in payment of subscriptions to the same,—Wheat, Corn, Rye, Barley, Oats Potatoes, Pork, Beef, Butter, Ham, Eggs, &c. &c. &c., for which the highest market price will be allowed, if delivered soon.

Farmer Office, September, 1844.